

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Cancelled.
2. Cancelled.
3. (Previously amended) A method of returning a weight from a weight field of a database wherein said database has at least one data field for storing a set of data relative to a corresponding article, packing material, and container, and wherein said set of data comprises at least said weight field, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) initiating a cost determining routine in a shipping system application at a first node;
 - (b) entering a description of said corresponding article, said packing material, and said container into a first data field of said rate determining routine;
 - (c) transmitting a query from said routine to said database for a weight associated with said corresponding article, said packing material, and said container;
 - (d) returning said weight to said routine; and
 - (e) displaying the cost to ship the article, packing material and container.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously amended) A method of providing for weight-based determinations of one or more articles to be shipped, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) initiating a cost determining routine in a shipping system application at a first node;